

POLITICAL EQUALITY

THAT IS THE RALLYING CRY OF THE CAMPAIGN NOW ON IN NEW YORK.

It is Being Waged by the Society Women of the Metropolis, and They Believe They Can Get the Word "Male" Eliminated From the State Constitution.

That which was not predicted has come to pass in the city of New York. The Society Woman (capital letters, if you please) has joined hands with the advanced woman in calling for practical equality of the sexes.

Just how this came about not every society woman knows, but there is one thing which nearly every one of them understands thoroughly, and that is that she and her sisters are very much in earnest in desiring the ballot.

As many readers already know, the energies of those who favor the extension of the ballot in New York are this



LILLIE DEVEREUX BLAKE.

year exerted in a different direction from that of former years. It is proposed to induce the constitutional convention, to be held according to the provisions of the organic law of the state in May, to prepare an amendment to the constitution eliminating the word "male" from that document. Once that little word is left out the rest will be a mere matter of detail, but even if the effort be successful before the convention the campaign is not more than begun, for the deliverance of a constitutional convention upon any subject may only consist of a resolution to submit the proposed change in the form of a question to the people at the next regular election, and this has to be done twice. It will be two or three years, therefore, before the preliminary stage will be passed and the essential details of the change will be taken up.

The conversion of the society women to the advanced way of thinking was, so far as the public knows, a rather sudden thing, but there is little doubt that unless the growth of this feeling suffers an unlooked for setback the women will eventually, if not this time, win for themselves the prize they so earnestly desire. One thing that makes for this conclusion is the fact that, although there are some who fight the proposition with all the earnestness of former years, the period of fighting the movement solely by ridicule seems to have practically passed away.

The chief difference between the present methods and those of the past, aside from the entry of the society women upon the field and the assault being upon the constitutional convention instead of the legislature, lies in the meetings. Instead of public gatherings attended by thousands and open to all, meetings have been held in the parlors of some of the most exclusive houses, and no one has been present except by invitation. The speakers indeed have often been women identified with the suffrage movement for years, but otherwise the old time agitator has not been much in evidence, and the speaker even has often been a society woman or a professional or business woman whose interest in the matter is of recent growth and due to the belief that without the same political privileges and responsibilities as are accorded to men she has not the same opportunities for success in her chosen occupation as a man. Besides the meetings at society houses, which have in most cases been attended by the fragrant aroma of the toilet as well as the ladies, petitions have been started in all directions, headquarters



MARY A. LIVERMORE.

for that branch of the campaign having been established at Sherry's, in Fifth avenue, a favorite resort generally for the well set of the metropolis of the Atlantic seaboard. Society women have themselves sat behind the table at Sherry's day after day and superintended the signing of the rolls by all who desired to add their name thereto. The list that is there offered for signatures does not bear so many nor so important names as many suppose, because of the traveling lists mentioned, but still it is a very respectable one both as to quantity and quality, and when I examined it a day or two ago I observed that there were more signatures of men than women. This fact brings to mind the oft repeated statement that men have always been ready to accord the ballot to women whenever the majority of the women really desired it. At the present time

there is no doubt that the society women, all the old time agitators and many of the professional and business women are aroused upon the subject, but the feeling in favor of political equality is still very feeble among the home women of the "middle class"—the wives and sisters and daughters of men in the receipt of incomes of from \$800 to \$5,000 a year. I do not mean to say that no women of the class indicated are interested, but that the majority are not there is no doubt whatever. Granting this, it is clear that the women of New York as a whole are not yet asking for the suffrage.

"We are well aware," said a young woman in charge for the day at Sherry's recently, "that the middle class women are not yet aroused, but they will be, I am sure. We have had so much to do in getting our petitions out among those whom we personally know that we have not yet had time to go to those with whom we are not acquainted. But if you observe the men who come in here to sign you will see that they do not all look as if they were rich, and if the middle class men, financially speaking, come out for equal political rights their wives and daughters will too. Is it heretical for me to say that the women will be guided by the men in this matter? Well, it's true any way, and it couldn't be otherwise. We have always followed the lead of men in political and economic thought—most of us—and if we get citizenship now because many of us are led by the men it's all right. We don't care about that. What we want is the citizenship."

"I have not thought very long on this matter. I don't know the history of the so called 'woman's rights movement' at all well or the names of its pioneers. But my papa used always when he was alive to see that I kept pretty well informed on the political events of the day, and my mamma has always believed women were as well qualified to exercise the powers of citizenship as the men, and some women, she thinks, are a great deal better qualified than some men. I agree with her in this, and so do most of the girls and women I know. One thing is certain. We shall not do as so many men we know have done—stay away from the polls year after year. We know that ignorant women, and frivolous women, and bad women will have the power to vote as well as we, and I believe that when equality comes the great many good, pure women who may not now favor the suffrage will see the situation as it is and vote because they will feel it their duty to counteract the votes of the ignorant and the vicious, just as the intelligent and good men should now."

"I passed some time in Wyoming last year, and I learned that the women are the salvation of the ballot there; that



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

the wives and mothers, the good, pure women, vote there, and that they vote as they think and not as they are told quite as much as the men do. I do not fear for embarrassment in voting men for want of time to keep posted so that I shall know how to vote, but duties come with privileges, you know, and I have been thinking a good deal about jury duty and some other things. There are some cases, you know, in which I should not like to be a jury woman, and I can imagine a jury containing some men with whom I should not like to be locked up for long deliberation over a verdict."

No matter how the petitions are received by the constitutional convention, the present interest taken by the society women of New York is of itself a great victory for the pioneer like Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Miss Susan B. Anthony and the host of younger women like Mrs. Eliza Archard Conner, Helen Gardner, Sarah Orne Jewett, Jenny June Croly, Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge and others who have unostentatiously labored for the propagation of the suffrage idea among members of their own sex. The fact that it has needed the help of Mrs. Russell Sage, Mrs. A. M. Palmer, Colonel Bob Ingersoll, Frederic Conder and other lights of both sexes to bring the present sentiment into being does not detract one iota from the credit the leaders should receive. It is somewhat interesting to note that among those who are in opposition are Marion Harlan, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Emma D. E. N. Southworth and Mrs. Bab Mullen, all women of marked individuality and unusual abilities.

The history of woman's suffrage in Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and elsewhere is too well known to be touched on here, but it is significant that both those who oppose and who favor political equality in New York cite the results where it has been granted in support of their arguments. The movement in the state of New York outside the city, though not so strong, is still one of considerable magnitude.

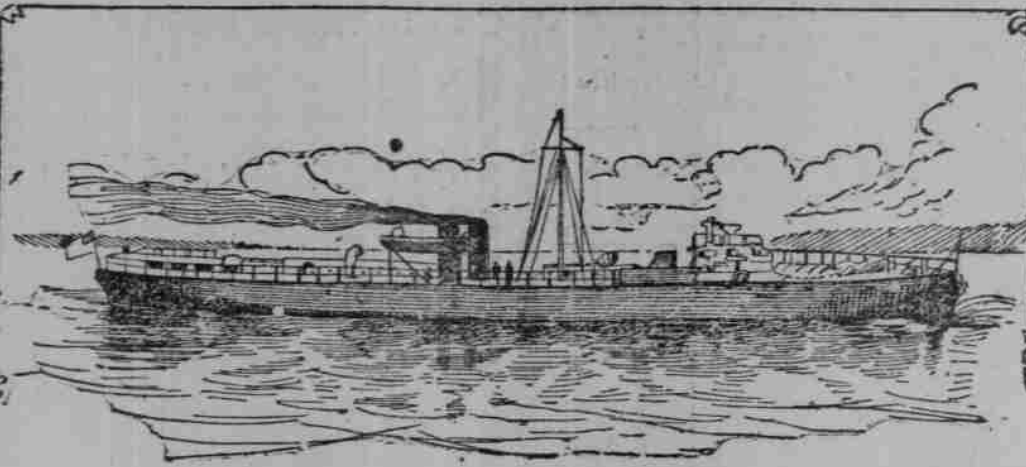
I. D. MARSHALL.

Lord Rosebery's Late Wife.

Lord Rosebery, the present prime minister of England, married a cousin of Lord Rothschild, the daughter of Sir Anthony, and is said to have received from his father-in-law a check for \$5,000,000 as a wedding gift. Lady Rosebery, who was a most accomplished and very philanthropic woman, died several years ago.



A VIEW OF THE MIDWINTER MIDWAY, SAN FRANCISCO.



H. M. S. "HORNET."

Said to be the fastest boat in the world. It is a torpedo destroyer, and showed a sustained trial speed exceeding 28 knots an hour. The Hornet is one of 30 vessels of a similar type ordered by the British government. Its cost was \$150,000. It is a twin-screw boat, 180 feet long and 18 feet 6 inches beam.

Cruel Man.

"Charley," said the young wife tenderly as she kissed him goodbye preparatory to his going down town, "the cook is taking a holiday today, and the dinner you will get when you come home will be entirely of my cooking. It will be my first, Charley, dear, and won't it be lovely?"

She twittered softly at the thought, and Charles turned his face away so she could not see the lines upon it, for he loved this wife of his and would not for worlds do or say aught to wound her feelings.

"Delightful," he responded, stroking her sunlit hair, "and I'll bring those good friends of ours, the pastor and the physician, along to be with us."

"Oh, Charley!" she exclaimed. "Don't bring them. Bring some of the young fellows."

"I'd rather have them," he said. "Now, dear," she pouted, "why not do as I want you to do? Why do you want them?"

Charles hesitated a moment and then took her hands in his own caressingly. "Because, sweetheart," he explained, "this is your first effort, and I'd feel so much easier in my mind if they were both here."—Detroit Free Press.

The Very Man.

A company of soldiers is unfortunate if it does not contain a few ways to enliven the tiresome march and the uncomfortable bivouac.

A Georgia man of enormous girth stood at his gate watching the passage of General Johnston's army. All at once three or four men left the ranks and came running toward the gate, exclaiming: "We've found him! We've found him!"

"The fat man was astonished and perhaps a little frightened, and the captain of the company demanded: 'What is it? Whom have you found?'"

"Why, captain," answered the men, still dancing about the bewildered citizen, "don't you see? We've found the man that swallowed our bass drum!"—Youth's Companion.

Inconsiderate.

"What are you wearing dark glasses for?" said one clerk to another. "You never had trouble with your eyes before, did you?"

"Never. But the janitor came around when I wasn't looking and washed the window by my desk. The sudden glare was too much for me."—Washington Star.

She Knew Her Business.



The Greenhorn—Arrah, phwat are ye pourin coffee grounds into the sink for? Don't ye know 't will shtop oop the sewer pipes?

The Other One—Phwhisht! Shure I do this phwiniver I'm lonesome for gintlemen's society. By this plan I kin count on havin the attentions of a plumber or a carpenter for the next three days.—Puck.

Twenty Miles a Day by Elevator.

An elevator boy in the Monadnock building in Chicago rides from 20 to 25 miles a day in his car. It is about 235 feet from the ground to the sixteenth floor, and a car makes from 275 to 300 round trips a day, according to the rush. Several young men have collected some interesting statistics on the skyward travel in that building. They find that on busy days each car hauls about 4,000 persons up and down. There are 16 elevators in the Monadnock building, which would indicate that 64,000 persons visited the building every day.

To Tax Beards.

Nearly every workman in Italy wears a beard on account of the cost of shaving. Now it is proposed to aid the barbers by putting a tax on beards.

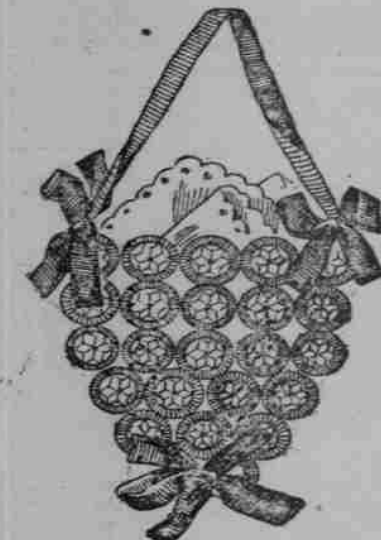
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HANDKERCHIEF POCKET.

Pretty When Made in Colors to Match One's Various Gowns.

There are always those who, regardless of edicts of fashion, will have a pocket of some kind in which a handkerchief at least may be safely carried. A favorite design for such a pocket is shown in our engraving. For making it, four dozen three-quarter inch rings, one yard of half-inch ribbon and a part of a ball of crocheted silk will be required. The rings are crocheted singly, filled with lace stitch, and sewed together, as seen in the sketch; twenty-four being used for the front, and the same number for the back, all-



PRETTY POCKET FOR HANDKERCHIEFS.

though the back is sometimes made of thin canvas covered with the dress material. One-third of the ribbon makes a pretty bow for the bottom, and the rest is used for a suspension loop and a bow for each upper corner. A little bow at the top, where the loop is pinned to the belt, would be pretty if the pocket is to be worn with a round waist. Such pockets are prettiest if made in colors to match the gowns with which they are to be worn; but black pockets are often worn with gowns of other colors.—American Agriculturist.

Look for the Bright Rays.

A woman with a happy disposition is far more to a man as a wife than the woman with a great fortune, for riches take wings. Worldly prosperity has a way of altering, and if once money vanishes the gloomy individual does naught but sit down and weep, having no word of encouragement for the husband, on whom the blow falls most heavily. The happy dispositioned wife will see a way out of the difficulty or will accept matters as they are in a sweet spirit of cheerfulness that endows her husband with a new zeal and causes him to look upon her as the guiding star of his existence. If God has not given you such a disposition cultivate it as far as possible. It does no good to brood over one's troubles. It doesn't help matters out a bit. Be on the lookout for bright rays and you will certainly find them.

The Harmful Dotted Veil.

The injurious effect on the eyes caused by wearing dotted veils is an old warning which has been sounded to no purpose, and the fact that oculists are growing rich under this reign of fashion does not alarm the wearers of this attractive bit of feminine vanity. The dots are larger or smaller, closer together or farther apart, as they are more or less becoming, while the possibility of impaired eyesight is left entirely out of consideration. It has been discovered lately that the dots are not their only harmful quality. There is some substance used in stiffening or coloring the net which is poisonous if it chances to find its way into the eye.

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